

Green Gym®



Sonning Common

"THE LOPPER"

full of little cuttings.

Special Edition June 2021



Happy Volunteers' Week!

A time to say thanks



Tuesday, the 1st of June to Monday the 7th of June celebrates the role of volunteers, and recognises the fantastic contribution volunteers make to our communities and say thank you.

So on behalf of nature and visitors who enjoy the spaces the GG look after:

"Thank you for all your time, hard work, and amazing generosity!"

martin b

Volunteer Week

Cleeve Water Meadow



A few piccies taken at Cleeve Water Meadows where the group processed coppiced wood to make stakes and binders to use in the dead hedge by the river, as well as clearing vegetation from the base of the hedge.

Nice to see the coppiced wood being recycled and put to good use.

Also fantastic to see some of the stakes the GG **"planted"** on previous visits shooting - maybe the dead hedge will come **alive** in time.

-On the boardwalk.....

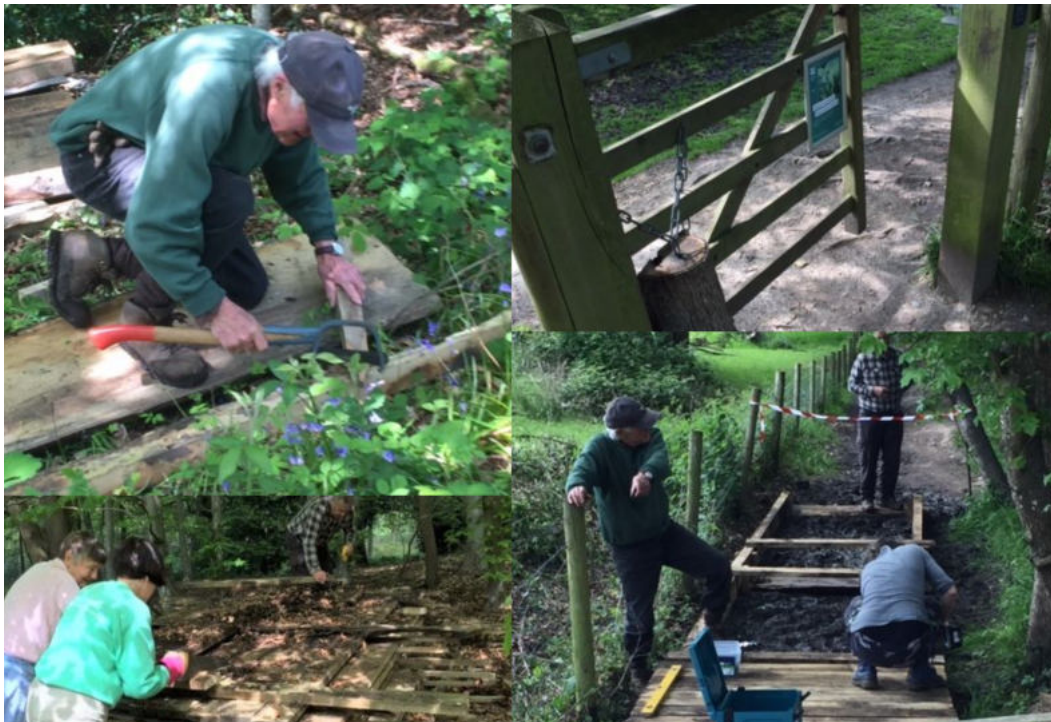
Well the Drifters were singing of life 'under' the board walk, Myrow and Gordon reckoned 'On the board walk...Life will be peaches and cream'. Now members of Green Gym, delighted to be back at **Greys Court**, were very much on top of it. Complete with coffee and biscuits of course.

There is a particularly muddy squelchy bit on the footpath by the bluebell wood and Leo's idea of a board walk seemed just the thing for a bright and sunny Thursday morning for us to get down to earth. A bit of slithering in the stodge was fine.

Here we had tasks for all. Some were on cutting planks to size, some on the longitudinal base timbers, some settling the planks in place-or should I say 'boards.'

Down the side of the footpath fence there were nettles to be slashed and round a noble quercus robur with its enclosing fence and in the meadow more clearance. And once more the delight of grubbing up nettles, the roots extend all over the place and very satisfying to clear a circular space. Am I the only one who extols the pleasures of pulling up nettles?

Mike S



And the award for the best supporting dog goes to Buddy



Leo (GG alumnus, and NT Area Ranger) made a fantastic **video** for the National Trust and Good Housekeeping, about **bluebells** which can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RXaL2tJlvo>

But we all know the real star of the show was **Buddy**.



Oh No, not another Memorial Hall !

Yes, you heard it right. We've done Peppard Memorial (on numerous occasions) this time it's **Kidmore End Memorial**. With more to come in the programme.



Come a Saturday morning in pouring rain hardly propitious and we are down for bedding out withies. Sorry, not withies I think it's whips. There's quite a few of them, hazel, dog rose, rowan, crab apple, blackthorn all due to go along the hedge and filling gaps between mature trees.

But no. It seems it is the wrong time to plant out these so they are to be transferred into waiting planter boxes pending the day and conditions. This we do especially now the rain has passed over.

What else to do? Well, there is a huge pile of cut material to burn and we have a convenient space to do the necessary. Passing parents taking kids to dance classes in the hall dodge the smoke as best as they can.



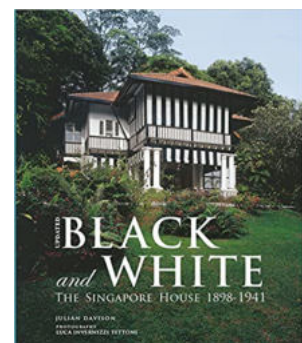
Now for the architectural history bit.



Kidmore End Memorial Hall dates from 1924 and was designed by the Caversham architect, CB Willcocks (1887-1972) in the 'black and white bungalow' style. The open veranda is typical of what you might call the 'British Colonial style' particularly reminiscent of the inter-War years. Examples can be found from New Zealand to Singapore to Cyprus. European colonising nations always took their architecture with them, often mixing with local styles, traditions and materials. Here is a book reference to those in present day Singapore protected as

heritage dwellings with guided tours.

it



Another thought-the open veranda and the side projecting apses are remarkably a feature of Romano-British villas. Mmmm..... and that's 1800 years ago

Willcocks' designs were influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement as evidenced in the house he built for himself, 'Willstead' in St Peters Avenue, Caversham. Just wondering if there is not a bit of A and C in the curving roof corners of the Tesco-esque tower vane!

Mike S

Parson's Wood

Gratifying to see a quantity of [bluebells](#) has sprung up after our clearance of dense holly by the chicken run. On the opposite side of the path there are now great swathes of blue where we cleared in past years.

Julia



Lopper Editor: Martin Barrett
mdb.scgg@gmail.com

The Sonning Common Green Gym
c/o Health Centre, 39 Wood Lane,
Sonning Common

Enquires: Martin Rhodes 01189 724228